

## Community resources

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## Viewing cable 08ISLAMABAD1673, PAKISTAN'S F-16 PROGRAM -- AT RISK OF FAILURE?

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags [#cablegate](#) and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. #[08ISLAMABAD1673](#).

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">08ISLAMABAD1673</a>	2008-04-24 15:46	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Islamabad

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/article2059881.ece?homepage=true>

VZCZCXRO7172  
PP RUEHLH RUEHPW  
DE RUEHIL #1673/01 1151546  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 241546Z APR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6658  
INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 8492  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 3163  
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 9609  
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 5360  
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 4098  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHWSMRC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHMFIS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 ISLAMABAD 001673

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/18/2028

TAGS: [MARK](#) [MASS](#) [PGOV](#) [PK](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S F-16 PROGRAM -- AT RISK OF FAILURE?

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson for Reasons 1.4 b,d

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has approached the U.S. with a request to use Foreign Military Financing (FMF) to help pay for

¶2. (C) Summary Continued: Post appreciates that Washington has placed a great deal of time and effort in trying to ensure the F-16 deal act PAKISTAN AIR FORCE SEEKS FMF FOR F-16 MLU CASE

¶3. (SBU) In September 2006 the U.S. and Pakistan reached agreement to provide U.S. manufactured F-16's to the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). The

¶4. (SBU) The three cases were built around the 18 new planes valued at \$1.4 billion; associated F-16 munitions for approximately \$641 milli

¶5. (SBU) The Letter of Offer and Acceptance for the Mid-Life Update case covers the sale of the upgrade kits for Pakistan's existing fleet

¶6. (C) Understanding how Pakistan views FMF as opposed to how it is administered by the U.S. is an important element of the issue at hand.

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at without endorsement by the U.S., has produced a culture of entitlement within the Pakistani military as it pertains to FMF.

¶7. (C) Conversely, as it does with nearly all FMF accounts, the U.S. government views the annual appropriation to Pakistan as a single accc

¶8. (C) Pakistan believes its intent to modify the MLU LOA on an annual basis was clear from the sale's inception, saying that its approach

¶9. (SBU) With the above rationale guiding their thinking, the PAF asked the Office of the Defense Representative - Pakistan to modify the t PAKISTAN'S POSITION: STRAPPED FOR CASH AND COUNTING ON FMF

¶10. (C) The PAF's request is linked to several issues, the most pressing of which is a struggling national economy. The new government fac

¶11. (C) Over the past year, the U.S. has ended cash transfers for Economic Support Funds (turning cash into project assistance) and reduce

¶12. (C) This cash crunch coincides with a dramatic increase in payments due for U.S. weapons systems. The largest of these is the F-16 ca

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June 15 payment the F-16 program may begin to unravel.

¶13. (C) The F-16 program is only one of many large defense procurements Pakistan has planned. These include sales by Chinese, Swedish and

¶14. (C) The Pakistani military continues to plan for major defense expenditures despite the country's growing economic crisis. Given the ne POTENTIAL USE OF FMF FOR F-16 PROGRAMS - CT SUPPORT

¶15. (C) Despite the current economic challenges Pakistan still feels the need to fully invest in its territorial defense. While Pakistan's F

¶16. (C) The 2008 Foreign Operations and Appropriations Act (FOAA) allows for the immediate use of \$250 million of the \$300 million in 2008

¶17. (C) Efforts by Pakistan to employ its F-16s in a Close Air Support (CAS) role, or to conduct tactical precision strikes against fleetir

¶18. (C) It is important to note that the Pakistani Air Force has employed its block 15 version of the F-16 in the FATA. It has used this a COMMENT

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119. (C) Comment: For the Pakistani military, the F-16 sale is tangible proof of the post-9/11 bilateral relationship, and we seriously doubt

120. (C) Comment Continued: The USG has multiple reasons to continue supporting the F-16 program. It demonstrates our respect for Pakistan'

PATTERSON